

## SPECIAL ROAD TAX COURT HELD ILLEGAL.

Judge John W. McElhinney of the Clayton District Court renders decision.

## VICTORY FOR ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Webster Groves fails in its effort to secure a portion of the revenue for its street improvements.

Judge John W. McElhinney of the Clayton District Court yesterday decided that the special road-tax law passed by the Legislature in 1899 was unconstitutional.

The decision was rendered in the certiorari proceedings instituted by the State on the relation of Mayor Thomas C. Young of Webster Groves against the Judges of the County Court, to determine the legality of a tax levy made May 26, 1902. The levy was for 25 cents on the \$100 assessed valuation, 20 per cent of which was set apart for roads and bridges.

Webster Groves is an incorporated town, and the County Court thought that the municipality should take care of its streets. Consequently none of the 20 per cent appropriation went to it. For this reason the mayor wanted the special tax of 15 cents, provided for by the act of 1899, levied. He claimed the levy made was illegal because the new law was not observed. Incorporated towns were exempted by the act from the special tax.

Judge McElhinney held in his opinion that the imposition of the tax determined its necessity. "When the General Assembly passed this act," he said, "it left no discretion to the County Court, but undertook to impose an annual tax upon a certain portion of the county, which is expressly prohibited by the Constitution. The exclusion of cities and towns from the provisions of the act, and the classification based upon territorial limitation that is not allowed. The Constitution expressly prohibits any municipal classification that the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax."

"It is always a delicate matter," said the Court in conclusion, "to question the law enacted by the legislative branch of the State Government, but where it so seriously interferes with the administration of the finances of the county, and is so palpably a violation of the fundamental law of the State, the Court should not hesitate to declare it invalid."

The petition was dismissed at the cost of the relator.

## AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE WAR ON OBESITY.

Chief of Bureau of Chemistry Says Superfluous Flesh of Americans Can Easily Be Lessened.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—A department of the United States Government is thinking of launching a national anti-fat crusade. A determined war upon obesity will be waged along strictly scientific lines.

The department which is about to take this matter up is the Department of Agriculture. Doctor Harvey W. Wiley, Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, believes it will be a simple matter to accomplish great results in the line of lessening the superfluous flesh of the American people.

The first intimation Doctor Wiley gave of his intention was in a speech before the National Society for the Advancement of Science. Doctor Wiley said that, according to the work of arranging healthful diets for dumb animals, his bureau might take up the matter of properly feeding the human animal.

It was thought at the time to be a mere pleasantry, but, in an interview, Doctor Wiley makes it plain that he is seriously "Obesity," said Doctor Wiley, "is a disease. It is caused by improper eating. We could experiment on the human body as we have upon dumb animals, to see what foods make the most fat. In fact, it is well known that the obesity is caused by eating too much starch and sugar. This is already known. But we could arrange diets for persons in all walks of life. We could circulate these all over the country, so that people would know what to eat."

## FEAR OF POVERTY DRIVES WOMAN TO DOUBLE CRIME.

Kills Husband, a Well-to-Do Iowa Farmer, Then Kills Herself at Their Son's Home.

Oakland, Ia., Jan. 19.—Mrs. William Hanna last night brained her husband with a hammer and then cut his throat with a butcher knife, following the bloody deed by taking her own life by severing the jugular vein in her throat.

The woman, 38 years of age and her husband 78, and according to the report, the woman committed the crime because she feared her husband would die and leave her penniless.

The tragedy occurred at the home of a son of the dead couple, L. C. Hanna, who lives three miles east of town. Her husband was a retired farmer and possessed of considerable wealth.

Mrs. Hanna, who was addressed to her son, in which she explained that she and her husband were getting very old and that she feared her husband would die and leave her penniless to battle with the world. She told in the letter that she had hit her husband with the hammer and then drawn the butcher knife across his throat.

Seven large wounds were found in the woman's neck and breast. Falling thus to take her life, the woman severed her jugular vein.

Mrs. Hanna, it is thought, was temporarily insane.

## FILTRATION BILL TO COME UP.

Council Will Consider Water Clarification Measure To-Day.

The bill providing for an appropriation of \$100,000 for alterations in the settling basin at Chain of Rocks will come before the Council for final passage this afternoon.

The measure was introduced in the Council on November 7 as a substitute for one which provided for two processes of clarifying the city's water supply, namely by sedimentation and coagulation. On motion of Councilman Boyce the bill was returned to the Board of Public Improvements to be altered in such way that it would provide for one process. Accordingly, the provision for coagulation was eliminated and the bill found its way back to the Council, where it has since been in the hands of a committee.

The opposition to alum caused the Board of Public Improvements to remove the clause relating to coagulation.

The sedimentation process, as proposed in the Council bill, provides for the construction of weirs in the settling basins, which will allow the water to pass from one basin to another, thus increasing its opportunities for clarification.

**Sunday-School Convention.**  
Columbia, Mo., Jan. 19.—The Central Missouri Baptist Sunday-School Convention, in session at the Hotel Hamilton, closed its sessions last night. Addresses were made by Charles Rhodes, St. Louis; the Reverend M. L. Thomas, Jr., Hatcher, S. F. Taylor, and J. R. Pentoff, Doctor Woodward Moss, B. M. Peeler and E. W. Martin.

**Fire Near Louisville, Ill.**  
Louisville, Ill., Jan. 19.—The residence of Peter A. Harnisch, situated on the corner of Third and Chestnut streets, was destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon; loss, \$2,000.

## BEAUTIFUL PRETORIAN GIRL WAS THE BRIDE OF HENRY MEYER.

Former St. Louis Man Has Had Marked Success in South Africa, and Will Remain There Permanently—Predicts a Brilliant Future for the Country.



MRS. HENRY MEYER.  
Formerly of St. Louis, who now lives at Pretoria, South Africa.

Henry Meyer, who departed from St. Louis nearly six years ago to seek his fortune in South Africa, was recently married to Miss Lily V. Walker of Pretoria, whose father was a Scotchman of prominent family and whose mother was of a native Boer family.

Mr. Meyer has had many interesting experiences in Africa and has made a business success there. He was connected with the Meyer Bros. Drug Company, of which his father, C. F. Meyer, is president, before his departure from St. Louis.

When he arrived in Pretoria he organized the Anglo-American Freighting Company, and engaged in transporting freight to the interior.

As an agent for American interests he introduced Baldwin locomotives in South Africa and was instrumental in the introduction of American beer there.

When the war between England and the Boers was declared the British Government placed Mr. Meyer in charge of the ice and cold-storage plant at Pretoria, which furnished the troops quartered in that part of the country.

Although he still manages the Government plant, he has organized a supply agency under the name of "Meyer Limited," and is trading with the colonists and natives in the interior.

Mr. Meyer is now in correspondence with the Boer Government, with a view to sending a collection of Boer weapons to the World's Fair.

During his commerce with the interior, Mr. Meyer has collected many rare and beautiful specimens of the horns of wild animals. The collection, which is valued at \$5,000, was offered to the World's Fair as an exhibit, but was not found acceptable.

Mr. Meyer is a firm believer in a great future for South Africa and intends to remain there permanently.

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## FAVOR MANY CHANGES IN THE NESBIT LAW.

Subcommittee of Jefferson Club Makes Report on Amendments to Election Measure.

## IT REVISES 23 OF THE CLAUSES.

Provides for Printed List of Registered Voters and Strengthens the Punishment for Frauds.

The Jefferson Club's proposed amendments to the Nesbit election law will be submitted to the Legislature the early part of next week. The work of the subcommittee was reviewed yesterday afternoon by the general committee.

A few changes will be made in the subcommittee's report, which were advised by the General Committee. The public will not be apprised in detail of the contents of the bill until the changes are made.

Another meeting the General Committee will hold the latter part of this week, at which time the members will receive printed copies of the bill in the form in which it is to be introduced into the Legislature.

Some idea of the scope of the changes to be embodied in the new law may be gleaned from the report of the subcommittee from the General Committee before the revision of twenty-three clauses of the existing law.

The complaint made by Republicans that too many of the penalty clauses of the law of 1887 were not embodied in the present law received full consideration from the Jefferson Club committee. As a result the proposed amendments amply provide for not only the restoration of the major portion of those clauses, but also for the incorporation of additional clauses relative to the punishment of election frauds.

One of the most important amendments to the proposed bill will provide for sufficient publicity to be given to the law. It will make it compulsory for election officials to prepare printed lists of the registered voters for distribution weeks in advance of election day.

REPUBLICANS CONSENTED.  
The work of the subcommittee has been characterized by the spirit in which it has been done. The amendments have been pointed out for the purpose of providing amendments to the law, but no unreasonable criticism or objection. In order to ascertain the views of the members of the committee invited suggestions from prominent Republicans, many of which were adopted. The committee is now in the process of framing a law that will prevent fraud, but also one that will be entirely practical.

The committee fully realized that organization and regulation are two of the essentials of a clean and honest election in a city the size of St. Louis, and with this in mind they have endeavored to frame a law which, in their opinion, will meet with the approval of partisans.

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## DEPARTMENT AT SEA OR BAUMHOF CASE

Post Office Inspectors' Report Differs Widely From Statements of Citizens.

## BARTHOLOTT TALKS TO PAYNE.

Is Unable to Obtain Promise From the Postmaster General That the Matter Will Be Settled at an Early Date.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Representative Bartholott called at the Post Office Department and carefully examined all the papers filed in defense of Postmaster Baumhoff.

This is the first time Mr. Bartholott has had an opportunity to make such an examination. He found it no small task to read all the documents and spent three hours at the work. He would make no comment on the defense beyond saying that the papers were very strong.

Mr. Bartholott's daily mail is filled with letters for and against Mr. Baumhoff and naturally he would like an early settlement of the matter, so as to stop a great volume of correspondence put upon him by people in St. John. He would like to see Mr. Baumhoff. He urged Postmaster General Payne to decide it as soon as practicable, but the latter would give no assurance on this point.

General Payne said that so many complicated Post Office cases are pressing upon him that it has been practically impossible for him to attend to the St. John matter, and he could not say just when it would be reached.

Baumhoff's term will expire Saturday, January 24. It may be that the President and Postmaster General Payne will reach a decision by that date, but it looks improbable. So many strong influences have been put to work in behalf of Mr. Baumhoff that it is certain their letters will not be ignored.

The case is said to present some unusual complications. The Post Office Inspectors, upon whom the department generally relies for information as to the truth or falsity of charges, have expressed grave doubts. On the other hand, 2,000 letters from the most responsible business and professional men in the city have affirmed that there has been no misconduct, but that the charges were malicious, inspired by Republican opponents, and that a conspiracy was formed to blacken his character.

The Reverend Doctor Boyd made a personal argument to the President along these lines and the result is the White House and department are at sea as to the real merits of the case.

There is very little doubt that the disposition in Washington would be to permit Baumhoff to leave his term and then make another appointment, but it has been argued that this would leave an apparent stain upon his record in office and his friends have appealed strongly for a reappointment from the charges placed on file by the alleged "conspirators."

The matter is undecided and has not, in fact, yet been taken up by the administration for final decision.

## EXAMINATION BOARD ASKS POLICEMEN MANY QUESTIONS.

Twelve Probationary Patrolmen at First Session Declare the Order Is Trying.

Twelve probationary patrolmen, one from each of the police districts of the city, took the mental examination in compliance with the police manual yesterday. Twelve more will be examined to-day.

The twelve men who were examined yesterday agreed after they had left the room, where they had been asked numerous questions, that they never before had faced such an ordeal.

Some of them had stood before armed criminals and were not wanting. Others had stopped runaway horses without the aid of police, but when they went into the Police Board room yesterday to have the Examining Board fire questions at them they found, fast questions they never had met before.

Some of the questions were: "What is the difference between a patrolman and a policeman?" "What is the difference between a patrolman and a policeman?" "What is the difference between a patrolman and a policeman?"

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## ATTACHES EFFECTS OF DUKE OF MANCHESTER

New York Jewelry Company Alleges He Failed to Pay for Imitation Pearls.

## WERE SENT TO THE HOTEL

Duchess Said She Must Have Them in a Hurry, as She Wanted to Wear Them at a Sitting for Her Portrait.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.  
New York, Jan. 19.—Henry Brill, a lawyer of 230 Broadway, accompanied by a Deputy Sheriff, went to the Holland House this afternoon to attach the personal effects of his Grace, the Duke of Manchester, Eugene Zimmerman's titled son-in-law.

The attachment was issued at the instance of the Frederic Jewelry Company of 96 Broadway, which alleged that it sold the Duke an imitation pearl necklace valued at \$650 on the morning of December 6, 1900, and that it had received not so much as a cent in payment for it.

According to Frederick W. Weinberg, head of the jewelry firm, the Duke walked into the store at 96 Broadway on the evening of December 5 and said that he wished to buy some first-class imitation pearls for his wife.

"We showed him a lot of pearls," said Mr. Weinberg this afternoon, "and after examining them he said that he wished to have his wife look them over and select what she wanted."

"That was all right. The next morning we sent the pearls to the Holland House at 10 o'clock. In the Duke's room were Mr. Zimmerman, the Duchess and the Duke."

They all looked over the samples and the Duchess selected three strings of our finest imitation pearls, which she wanted most in a necklace. She said that she must have them by noon, as she had an engagement to have her portrait taken at that time and she wished to be taken wearing the necklace. We hustled hard and managed to deliver the pearls. That is the last we have seen of them, and we have not received any money for them."

## CELEBRATION AT LEXINGTON.

Crosses of Honor Bestowed on Confederate Veterans.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.  
Lexington, Mo., Jan. 19.—General Robert E. Lee's birthday was celebrated to-day by the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, the Daughters of the Confederacy, when crosses of honor were bestowed on the following Confederate veterans: W. B. Beck, H. L. Corbin, N. M. Cooper, William H. Edwards, George W. H. Edwards, John M. Galloway, Hicklin, G. W. Marquis, John Mulligan, W. D. Rankin and Frank Trigg.

The addresses of Mrs. J. H. Campbell, president of the chapter; Professor R. N. Cook and Robert G. Leavelle, secretary of the chapter; Mrs. L. K. Campbell, first vice president; Mrs. Kathryn Barron, second vice president; Mrs. Mary L. Barron, recording secretary; Miss Pearl Reider, corresponding secretary; Miss Jennie Auld, treasurer; and Mrs. G. W. H. Edwards, historian of the State U. D. C. were heard in October.

## SOCIAL EVIL BILL IS DISCUSSED.

Methodist Ministers Are Opposed to "Social Evil" Bill.

The minister of the M. E. Church, South, at their weekly meeting yesterday morning took exception to the views expressed by the Reverend Doctor W. B. Boyd in a recent interview on the "social evil bill."

The following resolution was adopted: "Whereas, Doctor Boyd of the Second Baptist Church, in his recent interview, has stated that he is the acknowledged representative of the Protestant denominations of the city in support to the 'social evil' bill; and whereas, the M. E. Church, South, is opposed to the same; therefore, be it resolved, that the M. E. Church, South, is opposed to the same."

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